

521.In the Old Testament Abraham married his half-sister by the same father. In 2 Sam. xiii. 13 it is shown that such a marriage was allowable in David's time, but Ezek. xxii. 11 refers to such a marriage as an abomination. Nahor's wife was his niece by his brother. Jacob married two sisters at the same time, both his cousins. Esau married his cousin. Judah took to wife his son's widow, but disapproval of that is expressed. Amram, the father of Moses, married his paternal aunt. These unions were all in contravention of the Levitical law. There are statements of the law which differ: Levit. xviii and xx; Deut. xxi. 20; xxvii. 20-23. In Ezek. xxii. 10 and 11 incest is charged as a special sin of the Jews. In the post-exilic and rabbinical periods the law varied from the old law. In general it was extended to include under the taboo more distant relatives.¹

Marriages between brothers and sisters were allowed in Phoenicia, but were contracted probably only when the woman had inherited something in which her brother had no share.²

522.In Homer Zeus and Hera are brother and sister. Union of mother and son is regarded as shocking, but not that of brother and sister.³ Arete was niece and wife of Alcinous, and was especially respected.⁴ In the case of Oedipus the union of mother and son, by error, was terribly punished.⁵ In the tragedy of *Andromache* marriages between mother and son, father and daughter, brother and sister, are mentioned as characteristic of barbarians. Dionysius of Syracuse, having lost his wife, married Doris and Aristomache on the same day. With Doris he had three children and with Aristomache four. His son by Doris, Dionysius, married Sophrosyne, his daughter by

Aristomache.
 Dion, the brother of Aristomache, married a
 daughter of Aris-
 tomache.⁶ Whether these marriages were
 extraordinary in Sicily
 we do not know. They may not represent the
 current mores as
 to marriage, but only the shamelessness possible
 to a Sicilian
 tyrant. At Athens the only limitations were on
 the ascending

¹ *Jewish Encyc.*) s.v. "Incest," VI, 571.

² Pietschmann,

Phoenizier, 237.

**//.*, IV, 58; XIV, 296; XI, 223; *Od.*, X, 7; cf. VIII,
 267; XI, 271;
 VIII, 306; VII, 65.

⁴ *Od.* > XII, 338; XIII, 57.

⁵ Keller, *Homer. Soc.*, 205,

232.

⁶ Burckhardt, *Griech. J[^]ulturgesch.* ^ I, 197.